



the WATER TAP

WASHINGTON'S DRINKING WATER NEWSLETTER

Small Communities Initiative in Action

Lyman, with help from the state, begins a process to upgrade its drinking water infrastructure

The small Skagit County town of Lyman (pop. 400) is on the North Cascades highway a few miles east of Sedro Woolley.

Rainfall in Lyman averages around 50 inches a year—rain that's about as pure as you can get, usually blowing in straight off the Pacific, with no upwind source of pollution closer than Japan, 5,000 miles to the west.

Lyman's water system has always been the essence of simplicity: Sink a couple of wells, pump the water up, store it in a reservoir, and deliver it to the customers.

Simple, direct, and cheap: Clean well water, no added treatment, cost to residential customers about \$15 a month.

Uh oh—trouble

But then, starting in 1996, newly required testing for copper in the town's drinking water began showing levels of copper that were above the maximum allowed by federal and state standards. Higher than normal levels of copper in drinking water can cause vomiting, diarrhea, stomach cramps, and nausea. The recommended system improvement for Lyman is an efficiently designed aeration system to reduce corrosion of copper plumbing.

Other analysis also began showing that one of Lyman's two drinking water wells is in hydraulic connection with surface water. Like many shallow wells serving small

communities, it is vulnerable to contamination that can be carried in surface water, including disease-causing organisms. The fix for this is full-time disinfection—something entirely new for Lyman.

These new treatments are expensive but necessary if Lyman's water system is to be in compliance with requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Looking for solutions

In February 1999 the state Departments of Health and Ecology, the Office of Community

Development, and the Office of Trade and Economic Development began formally collaborating to help small, rural communities like Lyman in their struggle to maintain economic viability and comply with health and environmental regulations. Lyman was selected as one of the pilot communities for this effort, known as the Small Communities Initiative (SCI). (For a more complete description of SCI, see the March 2002 issue of Water Tap, page 10.)

SCI staff worked with officials and staff from the town, Division of Drinking Water staff, Ecology Water Resources Division staff, and the town's consulting engineers to make sure everyone understood what needed to be done. Agency staff acted as facilitators, advisors, and resource brokers to help identify, define, and prioritize issues related to public health, environmental protection, and local development. They then developed an action plan for carrying out the work.



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Especially for Small Systems Section

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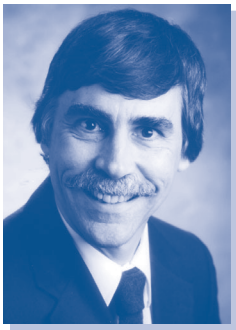
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THE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

BY GREGG GRUNENFELDER



A Big Responsibility

Owning and operating a public water system carries with it the large and sometimes daunting responsibilities of managing a service that is basic to the health and well-being of everyone in a community.

Properly operating a service as essential as the community's drinking water is key to maintaining the public's trust and confidence in all their community service providers. Failing in these duties has both business and personal consequences that go far beyond the regulatory compliance interactions water systems have with the Department of Health. Compliance with regulatory requirements and standards is a highly important obligation of public water system owners and operators. Maintaining the community's trust is even more important.

Certification and training are critical

The fundamental importance of water system operator certification and training was highlighted once again in March and April 2001 by an illness outbreak involving the drinking water system serving North Battleford, Saskatchewan. During this outbreak, over 7,000 people suffered gastrointestinal illness as a result of contaminated drinking water.

In the following investigations, the Commission of Inquiry found the water system operators "were, for the most part, poorly trained," and that "one-half of all operators currently working in Saskatchewan had attended one or no workshops during their working careers."

Being certified as a public water system operator and meeting the associated on-going training requirements are fundamental responsibilities of each water system operator. As we near the mid-point of a three-year professional growth compliance period for water system operators here in the state of Washington, all operators should be well on their way to acquiring their needed training—at least three Continuing Education Units by December 2003.

Regulatory compliance protects both public health and you

Nationally, we are beginning to see citizen lawsuits against public water systems as the result of concerns with the safety of the water. These concerns may be based on real or



suspected incidents of contamination, allegations of incompetent operations, or a perceived threat and concern with the unknown. In any case, water system owners and operators must position themselves to demonstrate clearly the efforts they have taken to protect public health by providing safe and reliable drinking water on an on-going basis.

As we establish standards for more and more chronic contaminants (those that may cause a variety of adverse health outcomes over a lifetime of exposure to the contaminant), the uncertainty over ill health and the cause of health problems grows. Since virtually everyone is exposed to drinking water, concerns can often become focused on the quality of a community water supply. If, in exploring these uncertainties, questions remain unanswered or regulatory compliance problems are uncovered, citizen lawsuits can quickly follow.

It is now more important than ever for water providers to be in compliance with regulatory requirements in order to be positioned to answer potentially complex questions from the community. Being out of compliance with certification requirements, monitoring requirements, or established water quality standards can put the water utility in a vulnerable position should legal actions be pursued against the utility over health concerns, even if the linkage between the health concerns and the drinking water is tenuous.

Water system owners and operators play a key and trusted role in protecting the health of their communities. Failure to perform this job carries with it potentially serious consequences.

Supreme Court Decisions Affect Annexations and Water Rights

Earlier this year the Washington State Supreme Court ruled on two cases that are important for water purveyors, developers, and local governments.

Grant County Fire Protection District v. City of Moses Lake

In this case, the court ruled that the petition method of annexation is unconstitutional because it violates the privileges and immunities clause of the Washington State Constitution.

Before the decision, state law had two ways for cities to annex land:

- The petition method, allowing people owning a defined percentage of the assessed value of the area being considered to petition the city. Annexation was accomplished by city ordinance.
- The election method, requiring a vote of the people within the area to be annexed.

Elimination of the petition method means cities must now go through the election process in order to annex adjacent lands within their urban growth areas.

It is not clear at this time what impact this decision will have on the delivery of drinking water in areas developing adjacent to cities. Typically cities have entered into agreements with property owners outside their boundaries to provide service in exchange for either a promise to sign a future annexation petition, a power of attorney authorizing the city to petition for annexation on the property owners' behalf, or some variation on such arrangements. Such agreements are now unenforceable.

A potential effect is that cities may be reluctant to offer service to adjacent areas due to the uncertainty of annexation and inability to add the land to their tax bases.

Another possibility is that cities will offer service only at a very high cost to ensure that the areas pay their fair share of the costs to provide the service whether or not the area is annexed.

In either case, an unintended consequence of this decision could be an incentive to develop new small systems or more private wells.

Washington Department of Ecology v. Campbell & Gwinn

This case involved the proposed use of individual wells to serve each lot within a 20-lot development. The court ruled that a housing development that would be served by multiple drinking water wells required a water right permit where the cumulative consumption would exceed 5000 gallons per day.

This decision is consistent with a 1997 Attorney General Opinion (AGO) and has significant implications for those local governments that did not adopt procedures consistent with the AGO. Local jurisdictions responsible for making water adequacy decisions should ensure that their processes are now consistent with the court's ruling.

In 1997 the Division of Drinking Water and the Department of Ecology adopted policies and procedures consistent with the AGO. Those policies and procedures do not appear to require any change. Ecology is continuing to review this decision to determine its full impact. The Division of Drinking Water will continue working with Ecology to determine the implications of this decision.



The 2002 Legislative Session:

Limited progress on water resource management

In the area of water resources, the 2002 legislative session opened like a lion but closed like a lamb. The controversy typically associated with any water initiative combined with severe budget shortfalls to destroy any hopes for sweeping legislation this year.

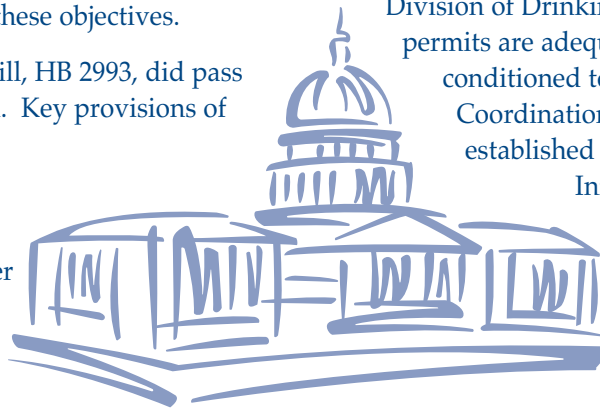
Nevertheless, the Department of Health still supports the broad and ambitious goals set out by the Governor and the Legislature to:

- Set and achieve instream flows.
- Find water for growing communities.
- Fix “use it or lose it” policies.
- Identify funding for water infrastructure.

Division of Drinking Water staff will continue to work with stakeholders and other agencies to build on the work of the 2002 session and move toward meeting these objectives.

A much more limited bill, HB 2993, did pass during the 2002 session. Key provisions of this legislation include:

- Guidance to the Department of Ecology on its water law compliance program.



- A new category of recycled wastewater called “industrial reuse water”.
- Removal of limits on water right holders wishing to donate a trust water right.
- Expedited processing of certain water storage applications
- An account, managed by the state Public Works Board, for federal water conservation funds that may be granted to states under the federal farm bill

In terms of impacts to the Division of Drinking Water and public water systems, this legislation may offer some assistance to systems with regard to expedited storage permitting requirements and increased opportunities to protect water rights from relinquishment by donation or lease to the state’s water trust program, administered by Ecology.

The most significant impact is related to the industrial reuse water provisions, which will require coordination between Ecology and

Division of Drinking Water to ensure that permits are adequately reviewed and conditioned to protect public health. Coordination procedures should be established by early summer.

Informational materials will be developed and made available to the public at that time.

Laboratory Certification Moves to Ecology

By the middle of this coming fall, laboratories that perform compliance-related analyses for drinking water samples will gain their certifications from the Department of Ecology. An agreement between the Departments of Health and Ecology has been finalized that provides for the combining of each agency’s respective accreditation functions into a consolidated program.

Water systems are not expected to notice any impact from this action, except that with this streamlining of the programs, the costs of regulatory sample analyses should remain more stable, or possibly even be lowered, in the long-term.

If you have any questions about the new approach to laboratory certification, please contact Jim Hudson at 360-236-3131.



DWSRF Applications Are In

2002 brought a record number of applications for funds to be distributed in 2003



In the spring of 2003, over \$25 million will be going to public drinking water systems in Washington to fund infrastructure improvements through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program.

In May 2002, 96 applications from 76 jurisdictions were received for this sixth annual round of DWSRF loans, requesting about \$70 million. The large number of applications makes it likely that funding offers will be limited to high-ranking water quality projects, starting at the top of the priority list and working down until all available funds have been obligated.

The DWSRF program provides low-interest loans to help community and non-profit noncommunity water systems finance infrastructure improvements. The basic interest rate for 2002 projects is 1.5%. This is a fixed rate over the 20 year term of the loan. Distressed counties and disadvantaged communities will be offered a reduced rate and may have the option of repaying the loan over 30 years.

The program is jointly managed by the Department of Health and the Public Works Board, along with their fiscal agent, the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.

About \$130 million in loans have been committed since the program began in 1997. Washington is a national leader in getting this money out to public water systems.



Plan ahead for 2003 applications

It's not too early to prepare for the 2003 application cycle. For example, systems required to comply with the new arsenic drinking water standard can look to DWSRF for financial assistance. The new standard of 10 ppb is intended to reduce the risk of adverse health effects from long-term exposure to low levels of arsenic in

drinking water. This increased margin of safety comes at an increased cost and will require substantial investment by communities that have arsenic present in drinking water at levels exceeding the new standard. An estimated 150 water systems in Washington will need to take action to lower the levels of arsenic in their drinking water.

DWSRF applicants are required to have a current Department of Health-approved water system plan or small water system management program which includes the proposed project. Applicants applying for funds in the spring of 2003 must have an approved plan by December 31, 2003 in order to remain eligible.

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact their regional office to find out their planning requirements. Systems required to develop a small water system management program can find the handbook at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/swsmp41.doc>

For small water system management program technical assistance, contact:

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

4305 Lacey Blvd. SE
Lacey, WA 98503
360/493-2260
<http://www.rcac.org>

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington

113 S. 2nd St.
Shelton, WA 98584
360-462-9287
1-800-272-5981
<http://www.erwow.org>

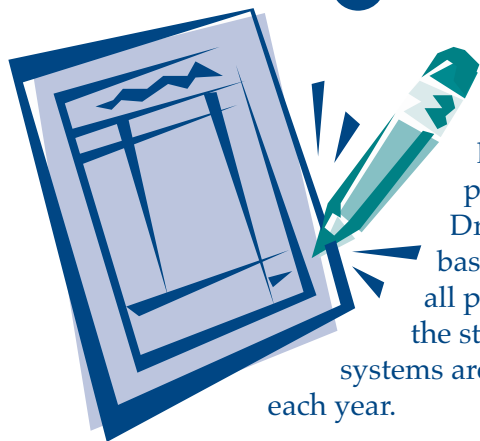
For more information on DWSRF, contact:

Chris Gagnon
(360) 236-3095
email: chris.gagnon@doh.wa.gov
http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/dwsrf.htm



For a comprehensive look at funding and technical assistance providers, go to the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) website at: <http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov>

New WFI Look Coming Soon



The Water Facilities Inventory (WFI) form is undergoing a major face lift. This important form provides the Division of Drinking Water with the basic information regarding all public water systems in the state. All Group A water systems are required to update it each year.

Current plans call for the new form to be sent out with regularly scheduled updates. This will allow it to be phased in over the next year. Training sessions are being planned for local health jurisdiction staff and Third Party Program Qualified Sanitary Surveyors (see article on the Third Party Program, page 8.)

The new form, in addition to being reorganized, requests additional information about the nature of customers served by each public water system. This information will help the Division of Drinking Water better assess public health risk if a system exceeds Maximum Contaminate Levels or has an off-normal event that may trigger a health advisory.

For the smaller systems, additional information will be requested to more easily define the group and type of water system. The current form leads to confusion when there are seasonal connections or if the population varies greatly during the month or year. The new form is designed to obtain the needed information in a more direct manner.

The instructions are being revised to help operators review and update the new form. There will also be a brochure to help identify the major changes and provide examples of how to complete the new sections.

*For more information -
contact the WFI coordinator in your region:*

Northwest: Shasta Guinn, 253-395-6774

Southwest: Brad Brooks, 360-664-9280

Eastern: Karla Griffin, 509-456-5076

Water Use Efficiency

Free on-site technical assistance available to small and medium-sized systems

Water conservation specialists from the Division of Drinking Water regions are available to help systems manage their water use more efficiently. They will provide free onsite visits to small and medium-sized systems, working directly with utility staff, management, committees, governing boards, volunteers, or others to look at water use efficiency options such as:

- Metering
- Rate modification
- Decreasing leaks and unaccounted-for water
- Ways that you can educate and encourage your customers about the value of water and how to use it more efficiently

The conservation specialists can also help you apply for source metering grant assistance being offered by the Department of Ecology (see article on page 7).

Better management of water can help a system grow within existing capacity limits, maximize capital improvement investments, decrease high summer peaks, and even avoid costly facility expansion. This can save water and money for your utility and your customers, and can help you be leaders in protecting precious drinking water for future generations.

To schedule a free visit, call:

Eastern Regional Office: 509-456-5067

Northwest Regional Office: 253-395-6769

Southwest Regional Office: 360-664-2543

***It's Worth
Saving*** 
Drinking Water

Systems Drawing Water from “Fish-Critical” Watersheds Must Meter Sources

Grants are available to help pay metering costs

Earlier this year, as the first step of a court-ordered compliance plan, the Department of Ecology told several water systems and irrigators that they must meter their water sources and report data to the department.

In March 1999, several private organizations filed suit against Ecology for not complying with the 1993 water measuring law. In December 2000, the Thurston County Superior Court ordered Ecology to bring its water compliance program into line with the law. The resulting compliance plan calls for the water users comprising the top 80 percent of total water use in sixteen fish-critical watersheds to comply with measuring and reporting requirements of a new water-measuring rule adopted by Ecology.

This will affect only a small percentage of water-right holders statewide (about 1000), the majority of whom already measure their water. However, identified parties will now need to submit their data to Ecology.

The letters sent out earlier this year were followed by regulatory orders. Additional rounds of letters and orders will go out in June, September, and December 2002. Ecology will then evaluate the need for more actions. In addition to the focus on the largest users in the 16 critical basins, water measurement and reporting provisions will be included in water right changes, transfers, permits, and certificates.

Ecology's goals for measuring water use include:

- Informing water users about quantity and timing of water use. This can identify leaks, identify equipment problems, and help users make wise decisions.

- Managing and planning in the state's watersheds. With increasing pressure on water supply in many areas of the state, a better understanding of available supply and use will aid in better planning.
- Assessing and enforcing water rights compliance. State water law is intended to protect legitimate uses and stop illegal uses.

Fortunately, the 2002 Legislature provided some relief to systems that need to install source meters. \$3.4 million in grants have been provided to help water users purchase water-measuring devices. Ecology's Water Resources Program is administering these funds. Ecology will give priority to applicants in the 16 fish-critical basins, but others may also apply for funding. Grants may be used for the cost of purchase, installation, and initial calibration of water measuring devices. Some funds are also available for telemetry equipment for water measurement data.

Maximum cost share by Ecology ranges from 50 to 85 percent, depending on total eligible costs. The maximum eligible project cost is \$50,000.

Division of Drinking Water Conservation Specialists are available to help systems with less than 1000 connections apply for these grants and put together the required matching funds. The Conservation Specialists can be reached by contacting any of the division's regional offices.

For more information, an application form, and instructions, visit: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/measuring/measuringhome.html>



Especially for Small Systems

Third Party Program Enlists Qualified Sanitary Surveyor (QSS) Services

There's a new term that you should get familiar with if you operate a small simple groundwater system

The term is Qualified Sanitary Surveyor (QSS). It refers to people who will be conducting sanitary surveys and providing other kinds of technical assistance related to water quality and treatment.

A QSS will in most cases be an employee of a local health jurisdiction which has entered into a joint plan of operations with the Division of Drinking Water to conduct sanitary surveys.

A new method to meet an ongoing goal

The Division of Drinking Water puts a high priority on completing routine sanitary surveys for all Group A water systems. These periodic field visits to evaluate the operation and management of public water systems are an important component of the division's effort to ensure safe and reliable drinking water.

The goal is to have sanitary surveys of all Group A systems conducted at least once every five years by the department or a qualified designee. About 800 water systems must be surveyed each year to achieve this goal.

Because the Division of Drinking Water is not adequately staffed to do all this work, the Third Party program was established to help survey smaller water systems using Qualified Sanitary Surveyors such as local health jurisdiction staff and independent contractors.

Surveys of small, non-complex systems

In general, QSS involvement will be appropriate for surveys of community or non-community systems with all the following characteristics:

- Fewer than 100 connections.
- Using groundwater sources not under the influence of surface water.
- Not using complex treatment.

The Division of Drinking Water will remain responsible for follow-up activities when a QSS-conducted survey finds deficiencies that pose a high public health risk.

A strong positive response from local health jurisdictions

This is a new strategic direction for the division. We have been encouraged by the overwhelming response from local health jurisdictions to meet this challenge and build stronger partnerships.

Currently 28 out of 34 local health jurisdictions have entered into a joint plan of operation with the division to participate in the Third Party program. By entering into such an agreement, a local health jurisdiction is delegated the responsibility of serving as the primary contractor to conduct sanitary surveys of small non-complex systems.

In most cases, local health jurisdictions lack the staff resources to provide additional direct technical assistance that systems may need in response to sanitary surveys. For these services, the division will contract with independent QSS professionals not working under local health jurisdiction supervision. Such direct assistance could include help with coliform exceedance problems, hypochlorination treatment systems, or other activities to improve compliance with drinking water regulations and promote sound operations and maintenance.

Qualified staff employed by a local health jurisdiction with a joint plan of operation in effect would not be eligible to provide independent QSS contracting services within that county.

In those few counties where the local health jurisdiction is not participating in the Third Party program, the division could contract with an independent QSS to conduct surveys in addition to providing direct technical assistance.

If you have questions about this new direction the division is taking, contact Sara Brallier, Field Activities Program Coordinator, (360) 236-3180.

(continued from front page 'Small Communities')

Lyman and the Department of Health originally agreed on a schedule for designing, building, and testing water treatment improvements by signing a Bilateral Compliance Agreement (BCA) in November 1999. The department allowed modification of the BCA schedule in October 2001 and again in May 2002.

SCI staff helped town officials apply for grants and loans to complete the necessary Water System Plan and a Project Report. This \$78,500 funding package included:

- \$10,000 cash from the town.
- \$19,500 loan from the Skagit County Public Works Revolving Loan Fund.
- \$24,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant.
- \$25,000 grant from the US Forest Service Rural Community Assistance Program.

The Department of Health approved the Water System Plan on March 6, 2002, and the town submitted the Project Report in early 2002.

Next job: Find the money

In addition to the identified problems with meeting federal standards, the Lyman water system has also been suffering from deferred maintenance—a common condition among small systems. Lyman officials are now applying for necessary disinfection and corrosion control funding, plus additional funds for wellhouse improvements, transmission line upgrades, an intertie between two wells, repair of a reservoir, metering, and installation of a second reservoir.

The estimated cost of these improvements is about \$1 million—roughly \$2,500 per town resident. These are the kinds of improvements that ultimately require rate increases and a commitment by the whole town to make things work.

The current plan is to apply for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan, a Community Development Block Grant, and a Skagit County Economic Development Public Facilities grant. If the town cannot secure enough funds to complete the water project through these programs, it will apply to the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Rural Utilities Service for a grant or loan.

For more information, contact Cathi Read, Office of Community Development, (360) 725-3016.

Certified Operators for Very Small Systems: Compliance is Over 97 Percent

In January 2001, nearly 1,900 very small water systems in Washington state were required for the first time to have a certified operator. As of late March, 2002, only 45 of those systems (less than three percent) had failed to come into compliance. The Division of Drinking Water is taking action against those that remain out of compliance.

The division's efforts included personal phone calls to about 250 grandparented operators who hadn't returned their renewal forms the week before the final deadline - nearly all of whom ended up renewing and keeping their systems in compliance.



In hopes that many small systems will eventually sign on with contract operators, the Division of Drinking Water made it a priority to see that contract operators are properly certified. Efforts focused on ensuring that all contract operators were certified as a Water Distribution Manager 1 or higher and Cross Connection Control Specialist and had submitted the required copies of contracts for operational services. The list of properly certified contract operators is now maintained on the division's website.

While the number of systems required to have a certified operator has greatly expanded, the number of systems whose operators have failed to renew their certifications is now lower than in the past. This is probably due in part to the great deal of attention and publicity devoted to operator certification over the past two years.

Requests For Information And Technical Assistance

Are you befuddled and confused by the complexity of the drinking water regulations?

Do you ever need a bit of help deciding how to hire an

engineering consultant? Have questions about that last letter from the Division of Drinking Water?

Well don't feel like you're alone. Even though we work very hard to provide straightforward and understandable written instructions and guidance, sometimes purveyors really need to speak with a knowledgeable expert.

Let's face it—the regulations are complex. The issues are not always straightforward. Often there are multiple ways to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

So, just who should you call?

If you are a water purveyor and you have questions please feel free to call your Division of Drinking Water Regional Office. They are open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Staff are available to help with most questions immediately. As necessary, they'll refer questions to other appropriate staff for response.

Technical Assistance Contacts

Eastern Regional Office:

509-456-3115

Adams, Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Columbia, Douglas, Franklin, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima Counties.

Northwest Regional Office:

253-395-6750

Island, King, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties.

Southwest Regional Office

360-664-0768

Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum Counties

You can find even more detailed information about staff contacts at www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Staff_Lists/dwnames.htm



System Certification Fee Affects Many Water Systems for the First Time

Many small systems are seeing something new on their annual operating permit fee statements this year: a system certification fee.

This fee has been in effect since 1994 for systems that must have certified operators. Beginning January 2001, small systems (Community under 100 connections, Non-transient Non-community and Transient Non-community classified as significant non-compliers) were required to have a certified operator and became subject to this fee for the first time. Last year the Division of Drinking Water was able to waive the fee thanks to federal money that became available. However, starting this year with the second quarter operating permit bills, the fee will show up annually.

The system certification fee goes to the Division of Drinking Water for administration of the Operator Certification Program, which is fee supported.

If you have questions about this fee, refer to WAC 246-292-160 or call 1-800-525-2536.



Free training for small water systems will soon be in your area

The delivery of the first free Division of Drinking Water sponsored training course designed for small water system operators (systems serving less than 3,300 population) will begin this July and August.

This initial overview course covers the state and federal rules and regulations governing drinking water in Washington state and major elements involved in running a system like sanitary surveys, consumer confidence reports, water facilities inventory, annual operating permits, operator certification, and technical assistance.

Schedule: Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems (0.7 CEU)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 1	Mt. Vernon
July 2	Monroe
July 8	Yakima
July 9	Moses Lake
July 10	Airway Heights
July 17	Port Angeles
July 18	Chehalis
July 19	Shelton
July 20	Vancouver
August 14	Omak
August 15	Wenatchee
August 17	Walla Walla
August 20	Colville
August 29	Issaquah
August 30	Tacoma

The second in this series of overview courses will begin early this fall. It will give operators basic information on the operation and maintenance of a system. This includes: small water system management programs, water quality

programs, common repairs and pump controls, safety issues, disinfection, cross connection control and backflow prevention, basic budget and finance issues, and developing water rates.

Both of these overview courses will be offered more than once before the end of December 2003, rotated around the state.

In addition to these two courses, the division is working with a third trainer to identify two to five priority courses that take a more in-depth look at some of these issues. These courses will be delivered before the end of this year, and other courses will be added in 2003.

Important reminder:

To remain certified, all those certified before January 1, 2001 (including all grandparented operators) have until December 31, 2003 to complete their professional growth requirement of 3.0 continuing education units (CEUs) or college credits of relevant training. As a rule of thumb, this means you will need to complete five or six relevant courses by the end of next year.

There will be numerous free courses offered to help operators meet the professional growth requirement. You will receive advertisement flyers, and these courses will also be featured in the training calendar in future *Water Tap* issues. We recommend that you register early and not wait until the last minute to earn your CEUs.

Operators of small systems have been very patient while the Division of Drinking Water waited to receive the training grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. Currently, seven states have received their funds, and Washington is the first to develop a training program and schedule classes.

For more information about the first free course, call Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, 1-800-272-5981.



Training and Education Calendar June - September 2002

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Cost/CEU</u>
June 15-19	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$695/3.0
June 15-19	BAT Course and Exam	Richland	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$695/3.0
June 17-21	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$695/3.0
June 18-20	Security Risk Assessment Methodology For Water Utilities	Seattle	NWTC Inc.	(253) 538-9848	\$275/Call
June 19	Small Water System Management Plans	Kelso	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
June 21	Small Water System Management	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$95/0.7
June 24-25	BAT Refresher	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$205/1.5
June 25	Enviro. Applications of GIS-Hands on Training w/ ArcView	Seattle	NWETC	(206) 762-1976	\$395/Call
June 25-27	WW Collection System Operation & Maintenance	Yakima	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$285/2.1
June 26	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$105/NA
June 28	Small Water System Management	Wenatchee	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$95/0.7
July 1	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Mt. Vernon	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 2	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Monroe	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 8	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Yakima	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 9	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Moses Lake	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 9	Wellhead Protection	Airway Hts	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
July 10	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Airway Hts	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 10	Wellhead Protection	Goldendale	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
July 12	Backflow Assembly Troubleshooting	Wenatchee	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$90/0.6
July 15-19	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$695/3.0
July 15-19	BAT Course and Exam	Richland	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$695/3.0
July 17	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Port Angeles	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 17	Wellhead Protection	Shelton	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
July 18	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Chehalis	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 18	Wellhead Protection	Port Angeles	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
July 19	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Shelton	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 20	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Vancouver	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 23-31	BAT Refresher (evenings)	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$205/1.5
July 24-25	BAT Refresher	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$205/1.5
July 26	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$105/NA
August 1	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Spokane	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$105/NA
August 1	Valves and Hydrants	Woodland	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 2	Valves and Hydrants	Chehalis	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 6-9	Backflow Assembly Tester Exam Review	Richland	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$400/3.0
August 7	Valves and Hydrants	Wenatchee	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 7	Water Works Math	Pt Townsend	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 8	Valves and Hydrants	Colfax	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 8	Water Works Math	Duvall	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 12-16	BAT Course and Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$695/3.0
August 13	Water Works Math	Ellensburg	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 14	Water Works Math	Asotin	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.5
August 14	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Omak	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
August 14-16	Cross Connection Control Specialist Exam Review	Moses Lake	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$220/2.1
August 15	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Wenatchee	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7

Training and Education Calendar June - September 2002

August 17	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Walla Walla	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
August 19-20	BAT Refresher	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$205/1.5
August 20	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Colville	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
August 20	Board Training	Island County	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/Call
August 21	BAT PRO-GRO Exam	Auburn	WETRC	800-562-0858	\$105/NA
August 21-23	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Yakima	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$220/ 2.2
August 27	Board Training	Othello	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/Call
August 29	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Issaquah	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
August 30	Basic Water Works Overview for Small Systems	Tacoma	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Free/0.7
August 30	Backflow Assembly Troubleshooting	Othello	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$90/0.6
Sept 9-10	ERWOW Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	ERWOW	800-272-5981	Call/Call
Sept 17-20	Backflow Assembly Tester Exam Review	Mt. Vernon	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$400/3.0
Sept 18-20	Cross Connection Control Specialist Exam Review	Lacey	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$220/ 2.1
Sept 25-27	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Lacey	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$220/2.2
Sept 27	Backflow Assembly Troubleshooting	Woodland	ERWOW	800-272-5981	\$90/0.6

Additional Training Links:

ERWOW Website - <http://www.ERWOW.org>

WETRC Website - <http://www.ivygreen.ctc.edu/wetrc>

AWWA Pacific NW Section - <http://www.pnws-awwa.org/index.cfm>

**For the complete Training Calendar
visit the Drinking Water Homepage
and click on Training -
www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw**

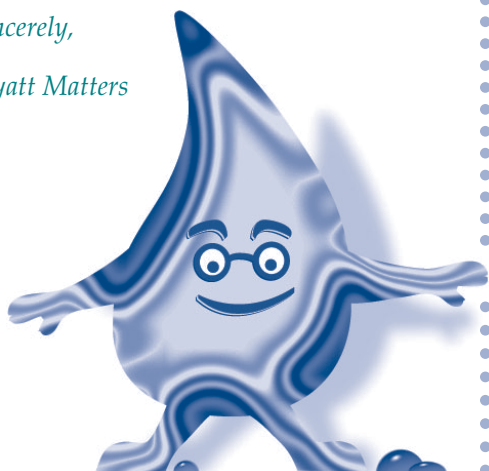
Dr. Drip

Dear Dr. Drip:

I hear the state takes some of the money in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and uses it for things other than loans to water systems. What's the deal?

Sincerely,

Wyatt Matters



Dear Wyatt:

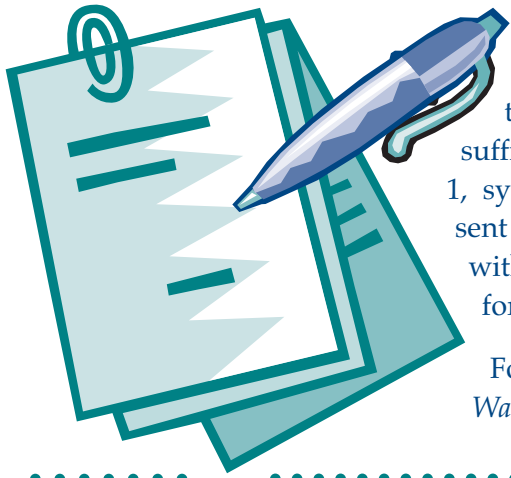
Congress authorizes the states to use up to 31 percent of their federal DWSRF grants for these so-called "set-asides." In Washington a very small percentage goes for administration of the loan program.

The rest is used to provide technical assistance and other support to water systems. Examples include:

- Contracting with providers to conduct sanitary surveys or provide follow-up services in response to survey findings.
- Helping systems with hypochlorination understand the purpose of the treatment and the importance of routine monitoring and reporting.
- Helping systems complete DWSRF loan applications.
- Developing and distributing the annual Water Quality Monitoring Report which provides information to water systems on the samples they must collect during the coming year
- Providing information regarding coliform monitoring requirements and follow-up actions required for a positive sample.
- Answering questions from small systems about operator certification requirements.

Reminders... Reminders... Reminders...

Consumer Confidence Reports Due July 1st



By July 1, 2002, all Group A community water systems must send a consumer confidence report (CCR) to their customers and submit a copy to their regional drinking water office. A postmark of July 1 is not sufficient; the regional office must receive the report by that date. By October 1, systems must also send to the regional office a certification that they have sent the CCR to their customers. We suggest they send the certification along with the copy that goes to the regional office by July 1, which will save work for all involved.

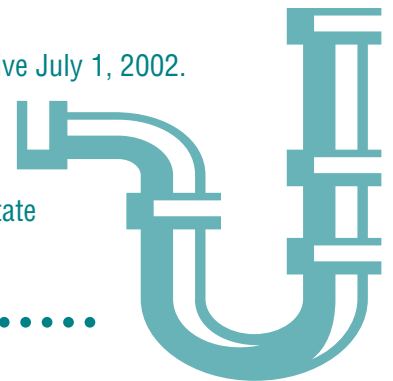
For more information on CCR changes for this year, see the March issue of *Water Tap* on arsenic reporting (page 7).

Uniform Plumbing Code Amendments Effective July 1st

The 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) with Washington amendments will become effective July 1, 2002.

The amended UPC contains a number of cross-connection control related amendments. Their purpose is to improve consistency between the UPC and WAC 246-290-490.

If you have questions about the UPC or the amendments, contact Krista Braaksma of the State Building Code Council: (360) 725-2964, kristab@cted.wa.gov



Lead and Copper Sampling Reminders Sent

In April, the Division of Drinking Water sent postcard reminders to Group A Community and Non-transient Non-community water systems that need to take a lead and copper sample set in the first six months of 2002.

Postcards were also sent to systems that must take annual or tri-annual sampling due by the end of 2002.

If this is your first time taking lead and copper samples and you need assistance, you can request a guidance packet by calling (360) 236-3122.

If you think you may have received a postcard by mistake or have questions regarding your monitoring schedule, please contact your regional office.

Reminders... Reminders... Reminders...

New Public Notification Requirements Affect Group A Systems Now

On May 6, 2002, a revised federal rule took effect regarding requirements that water systems notify their customers of possible public health risks. Even though the state is still working on related Washington Administrative Code (WAC) revisions that won't be adopted until later this year, the federal rule is effective and applies to all Group A water systems.

The new rule establishes three "tiers" with different maximum allowable times for public notification based on the nature of the health risks involved:

1. Acute health concerns: 24 hours
2. Chronic health concerns: 30 days
3. Reporting and monitoring requirements: 365 days

The rule also contains simplified health effects language and streamlined requirements for distribution of public notices.

As of May 6, systems must:

- Determine the health impact level/tier designation of all events for which public notification is required.
- Follow revised timing and distribution requirements for notifying customers of events based on the tier designation.
- Include simplified mandatory health effects language in notices to customers.
- Maintain copies of all public notices for at least 3 years and submit copies of notices and certifications to the Department of Health.



Division of Drinking Water Director Gregg Grunenfelder sent a letter to all Group A systems on April 15 informing them of the changes. He also asked systems to make sure that the Water Facilities Inventory (WFI) contains current information so the division can contact systems any time, day or night if necessary, to help meet the notification requirements.

For more information:

Tim Blake, (360) 236- 3124

Division of Drinking Water web site:

http://192.230.1.28/Internet/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/regula.htm

EPA web site:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pn.html>



In This Issue

The following people contributed to the production of this issue of the Water Tap: John Aden, Cheryl Bergener, Sara Brallier, Marsha Carlton, Lynn Coleman (Ecology), Gary Fraser, Chris Gagnon, Gregg Grunenfelder, Jim Hudson, Abigail Hughes, Steve Kelso (Editor), Bill Liechty, Meliss Maxfield, Tanya Mohammadi, Terri Notestine, Theresa Phillips, Cathi Read (Office of Community Development), Jim Rioux, Dan Sander, Rich Sarver, Rich Siffert, Paula Smith, and Michele Vazquez.

The Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water, publishes the Water Tap to provide information to water system owners, water works operators, and others interested in drinking water. Comments and questions are welcome.

Past issues are available by writing to the editor, the Water Tap, Division of Drinking Water, PO Box 47828, Olympia, WA 98504-7828, or email your request to steve.kelso@doh.wa.gov. Past issues are also available on the web at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw>

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